



Wildlife Walks – Mondays from Fox Cottage near the Mission Hall at 9.30am. All welcome.

**Congratulations to the Osmington Society, Dorset ANOB & partners on the Royal dedication of the White Horse on 12<sup>th</sup> March.**

**GARDEN BIRD WATCH**

Looking back at my records, it is hard to believe the village has been surveying garden birds on a monthly basis since 2009. In March, 2009 we recorded 39 species; in 2010, 36 species; March 2011 it was 40 species and this year 38 species. Watch out for Nuthatch, which we have seen and heard in a number of other places and also for the elusive Treecreeper on maiden trees. On 14<sup>th</sup> April, Portland Bird Observatory was reporting good numbers of Willow Warbler – look for pale brown legs whilst Chiffchaff (reported from six gardens) has dark brown legs. Swallows are starting to come through with one on 3<sup>rd</sup> April on Plaisters Lane. Look-out for Swifts and anybody heard the Cuckoo? There were small numbers of reports of fledgling birds during the last week of March including House Sparrow and Blue Tit. Thrushes seem to have returned to the wider countryside with just one record.



**Oil Beetles**

**Blackthorn etc.**

One of the questions I have been asked is about the flowering times of various wild *Prunus* species. The photograph is of Cherry Plum (*P. cerasifera*) flowering early March. Blackthorn (*P. spinosa*) has spikes and flowers late March – April, before the leaves, but check for Bullace (*P. domestica*), which flowers with leaves at the same time.



**OTHER WILDLIFE REPORTS**

One of the Botanical Society projects, which I have been cohered into supporting, is remapping the Flora of Great Britain. This mapping scheme was started in the 1950s with maps published in 1964, then again in the 1990s with maps published in 2002. Typical results may be found at <http://www.bsbimaps.org.uk/atlas/main.php> I have been given 10km square SY78, and although results are required by 2019, I think My feet will have worn out within five years. This project does give an opportunity to train younger people to learn about such mapping projects but more importantly to identify good unknown wildlife sites. My contact details are below.

EDITOR: JOHN NEWBOULD      PHONE 01305 837384

[www.suttonpoyntz.org.uk/biodiversity](http://www.suttonpoyntz.org.uk/biodiversity)  
email: [john\\_newbould@btinternet.com](mailto:john_newbould@btinternet.com)

Buglife have advised that they are running the Oil Beetle survey again in 2012. A Violet Oil-beetle was brought to my home from a garden on Sutton Road in the middle of March and is illustrated above. For more information see: <http://www.buglife.org.uk/getinvolved/surveys/Oil+Beetle+Hunt/Oil+Beetle+Hunt+-+Photo+Gallery>

**MOTH TRAPPING** – has started again, but the cold nights are restricting progress. Meanwhile, the Campbells caught this Oak Beauty on one of the warmer nights.



**Oak Beauty** © Sue Campbell